



California Environmental Protection Agency

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

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For Immediate Release

May 5, 2000

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### Regional Water Board Proposes \$148,000 Fine For Recycled Water Violations

RIVERSIDE - The Executive Officer of the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board has issued a proposed fine to Pelican Hill Golf Club in the amount of \$148,000 for eight unauthorized discharges of recycled water and for failing to promptly report the discharges to the Regional Board.

Recycled water flowed from golf course reservoirs into the Pacific Ocean at Crystal Cove State Beach. The waters off Crystal Cove State Beach are designated an "Area of Special Biological Significance" by the State Water Resources Control Board because of the exceptional marine habitat found in the area's rocky offshore reefs.

Pelican Hill Golf Club operates two golf courses in the Newport Coast development of Newport Beach. The courses are irrigated with highly treated recycled water. Between August 1999 and January 2000, at least 15 million gallons of recycled water was discharged from the golf course reservoirs without authorization. In response to similar incidents in 1996, Regional Board staff warned the golf course operator that further discharges of recycled water could lead to enforcement action.

A formal hearing before the Regional Board in Newport Beach may be scheduled for June. Pelican Hill will then have the opportunity address and contest the allegations and proposed fine.

The Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board is a part of the California Environmental Protection Agency. The Board implements state and federal water protection programs in the Santa Ana River drainage basin.

